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On the whole, the work of Mr. Hourwich and his associates is to be highly commended for its compactness, uniformity of tabulation and presentation throughout, its logical form, and its clarity of statement. In all of these respects, this volume, like the others planned by Director Durand and completed by Director Harris, seems to mark a decided step in advance in the presentation of census statistics to the reading public.

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REPORTS ON POPULATION, THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE  
UNITED STATES, 1910.

VOLS. I, II, AND III. WASHINGTON: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,  
1913.

It would be manifestly impossible in limited space to adequately review this group of volumes, comprising an aggregate of nearly 3,800 pages, which, together with an additional volume on "Occupations" (not here considered) constitute the published material on the single subject of Population, as enumerated in the census of 1910. There are, however, certain features of these reports which call for special consideration. While the subject-matter of these reports, considered as a group, does not differ signally from the subject-matter of the reports on Population of the previous census, the method of presentation of the material is distinctly different.

In 1910, when the method of presentation of the results of the census was under consideration, a press notice was issued by the Bureau of the Census, calling attention to the "Radical and Practical Departure from Previous Census Methods." No one will deny that the method of presentation of the 1910 census returns was at least a "radical" departure from that of the previous census and, while it may be open to question as to whether the departure was a "practical" one, it appears to the writer, who has had occasion to observe the use made of the population reports by the general public, that the method of presentation of the later reports has given more general satisfaction because it has resulted in accomplishing the very purpose for which the change was made, as expressed in the bulletin above referred to, namely, "To simplify and make more accessible the census data, so that they can be readily used, not merely by expert students and statisticians, but by the average citizen." With reference to the method of presenting the population statistics of 1900 it was stated in the bulletin that:

"In the reports of the previous census [1900] practically all the information was arranged with a view to facilitating comparisons between different localities with respect to a given subject, and not with a view to enabling the people of a given locality to ascertain readily all the facts with regard to that locality.

"Thus, the numbers of inhabitants for all the so-called minor civil divisions—townships, villages, etc.—of all the states were presented in one table, the same figures for the incorporated places of all the states in another

table, the various classes of population details regarding all the counties in the United States in another series of tables, etc. This meant that a person who wished to look up the statistics of minor civil divisions, incorporated places and counties for his own state alone had to look in several widely separated places for them. Even a person who desired to find information with regard to his own county alone had to consult a large number of scattered tables.

"In one table, for example, he would find the absolute number of inhabitants for his county side by side with similar figures for every other county in the United States. He would have to go to another table, where again the figures for all the counties of the country appeared, to find the figures distinguishing the population of his county according to color and native and foreign birth. He would have to turn over many pages more before he came to the figures for his county with regard to the country of birth of the foreign born. Still further over he would find the figures for his county regarding males 21 years of age and over; in another place, in fact, in another volume, the figures regarding illiteracy; still elsewhere those regarding the school attendance of the children. In each of these tables the figures for any one county were presented from left to right, the various counties being listed down the side of the page and the subjects across the top.

"The result of this method of presentation was that very few of the inhabitants of any county ever saw or made any use of the statistics regarding that county, except possibly those of the mere number of inhabitants. Similarly, in the 1900 census report, the statistics of any given city or village had to be picked out from many scattered places." . . . .

The validity of the above criticism of the method of presenting the population returns of 1900 will be readily recognized by referring to the following summary of the principal captions of the two volumes on population for that census.

#### REPORTS OF THE TWELFTH CENSUS.

##### VOLUME I.

##### GENERAL REPORT AND ANALYSIS. (pp. i-cxxix.)

- Introduction.
- Population of States and Territories.
- Density of Population.
- Center of Population and its Median Point.
- Population of Counties.
- Population of Incorporated Places.
- Urban Population.
- Rural Population.
- Sex.
- General Nativity.
- Color.
- State or Territory of Birth.
- Country of Birth.
- Foreign Parentage.
- Citizenship and Years in the United States.

##### MAPS AND PLATES.

##### GENERAL TABLES (Nos. 1-92) (pp. 1-1006).

- States and Territories.
- Counties.
- Minor Civil Divisions.
- Cities, Towns, Villages and Boroughs.
- Sex, General Nativity and Color.
- State or Territory of Birth.
- Country of Birth.
- Foreign Parentage.
- Citizenship and Years in the United States.

##### VOLUME II.

##### GENERAL REPORT AND ANALYSIS. (pp. i-cxxiii.)

- Elements of the Population.
- Ages.
- Persons of School Age.
- Males of Militia Age.
- Males of Voting Age.
- Conjugal Condition.
- School Attendance.
- Illiteracy.
- Can not speak English.
- Occupations.
- Dwellings and Families.
- Proprietorship of Homes.
- The Territory of Alaska.
- The Territory of Hawaii.
- Appendix—Form of Schedule.

##### MAPS AND PLATES.

##### GENERAL TABLES (Nos. 1-115) (pp. 1-754).

- Ages.
- School, Militia and Voting Ages.
- Conjugal Condition.
- School Attendance.
- Illiteracy.
- Can not speak English.
- Occupations.
- Dwellings and Families.
- Proprietorship of Homes.

The following summary of the matter in the 1910 reports has been prepared by selecting, in so far as possible, the same principal captions as those appearing in the 1900 reports, in order that a direct comparison may be made between the order of presentation of the material in the respective reports.

### REPORTS OF THE THIRTEENTH CENSUS.

VOLUME I. (pp. 1-1369).

(This volume constitutes the General Report and Analysis.)

#### SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS.

##### INTRODUCTION.

- I. Number and Distribution of Inhabitants.  
Introduction.  
Population by Divisions and States.  
Apportionment of Representation.  
Area and Density of Population.  
Centre of Population and Median Lines.  
Urban and Rural Populations.  
Communities Classified According to Size.  
Cities and their Suburbs.  
Population of Individual Cities.  
Population of Counties of Equivalent Divisions.  
Principal Tables.
- II. Color or Race, Nativity and Parentage.
- III. Sex Distribution.
- IV. Age Distribution.
- V. Marital Condition.
- VI. State of Birth of the Native Population.
- VII. Country of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population.
- VIII. Country of Origin of the Foreign White Stock.
- IX. Mother Tongue of Foreign White Stock.
- X. Year of Immigration of Foreign-Born Population.
- XI. Various Nationalities.
- XII. Social Classes.
- XIII. Illiteracy.
- XIV. Inability.
- XV. Dwellings.
- XVI. Ownership of Homes.
- App. Form of Schedule.

VOLUME II. (pp. 1-1160).

#### REPORTS BY STATES.

##### *Alabama to Montana.*

(The following is the form of presentation for each State and Territory).

##### *Alabama.*

#### CHAPTER I—NUMBER OF INHABITANTS.

Explanatory and Analytical Text and Tables.  
Maps.

#### GENERAL TABLES.

- I. Population of minor civil divisions: 1910, 1900, and 1890.
- II. Population of incorporated places: 1910, 1900, and 1890.

#### CHAPTER II—COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

Explanatory and Analytical Text and Tables.  
Map.

#### GENERAL TABLES.

- I. Composition and Characteristics for the State and for Counties.
- II. Composition and Characteristics for Cities of 25,000 or more.
- III. Composition and Characteristics for Cities of 10,000 to 25,000.
- IV. Composition and Characteristics for places of 2,500 to 10,000.
- V. Composition and Characteristics for wards of cities of 50,000 or more.

Notes regarding changes in boundaries, etc.

Other states are considered in alphabetical order, the form of presentation being the same as under *Alabama*.

VOLUME III. (pp. 1-1225).

#### REPORTS BY STATES.

##### *Nebraska to Wyoming. Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico.*

(Same method of consideration as in Vol. II.)

On comparing the above summaries or outlines of the reports of the respective censuses one will observe that the later arrangement provides, in a single volume, for the general summaries and analyses contained in the first portion of each of the two volumes of the 1900 census; but the general tables giving the information in minute detail with elaborate comparisons for the minor civil divisions, such as counties and the small cities and towns are lacking. For students and expert statisticians this lack undoubtedly works a hardship, rendering it necessary for them, when making a thorough study of some particular phase of population statistics where comparisons between such minor civil divisions of different states are required, to compile the data themselves by assembling the details from the sections devoted to the several states. But any inconvenience to which those engaged on special inquiries of this nature may be subjected is far outweighed by the

great convenience which the ordinary citizen enjoys through having immediately accessible in a single volume, in compact form, the principal data for that particular locality in which he may be especially interested.

The adoption of this method of presenting the returns by localities made it possible to carry out the plan, as announced in the press notice, "to publish for each state a bulletin which [would] contain at least the more important figures derived from the population census, both for the state as a whole, and for its counties, cities, and minor civil divisions." Notwithstanding the delay in the publication of a large number of these bulletins—a very prolonged delay in certain instances—it is assuredly true that the public was in possession of those portions of the census returns which are principally in demand, much earlier than would have been the case had the method of presentation of the returns followed that of the preceding census. Furthermore, the advance bulletins were in the form in which they were finally incorporated in the bound reports, thereby rendering unnecessary further composition of those portions of the report.

With reference to the bulk of printed matter in the reports of the two censuses, it should be pointed out that the 1900 population returns were published in *two* volumes, together comprising slightly over 2,200 pages, while the 1910 returns were published in *three* volumes, together comprising about 3,750 pages. In part, this increase was due to some duplication of figures in the general and state tables and, in part, to additional matter, principally text discussion, for the several states not included in the 1900 reports. It was the intention, however, to avoid duplication of the figures for counties and for the smaller cities, and, consequently, we find that information of this character was published only in the state bulletins. On the other hand, the statistics of the several states and larger cities were published in comparative tables in the first volume, or general report, because it was believed that "Persons who have this general interest in the statistics desire to consider the figures for given states and large cities as elements or sections of the nation, rather than as units standing by themselves, and to have them in form convenient for comparison." In order, therefore, to accomplish this purpose of meeting the demand for data for states and the larger cities presented both in comparative form and individually, it was necessary to duplicate the figures of this nature.

It might naturally be supposed that the printing of such a large number of additional pages (about 1,500) would increase the cost of meeting the public demand for the 1910 reports. Such would have been the case were it not for the fact that in a great majority of instances the demand is purely for *local* statistics and can be readily supplied by furnishing a copy of the section pertaining to a particular state under consideration; for example, by supplying a paper-covered bulletin of only 79 pages where one wishes merely the statistics for the State of New York, or one of 46 pages where one wishes merely the statistics for Massachusetts. And even should one wish comparative figures for the several states or larger cities, the demand can be met by supplying in a single volume of less than 600 pages the "Abstract" of the census, which, as described by the Director of the Cen-

sus, contains "in condensed form the principal statistics gathered at the decennial enumeration of 1910 on the subject of population (except occupation statistics), agriculture, manufactures and mining, and gives figures on all subjects for the United States as a whole, and for the different states, together with the statistics relating to population and manufactures for the principal cities." This Abstract has been issued in a series of separate editions for each of the several states and territories, each of which editions contains the abstract, as such, together with a supplement containing information in greater detail for the state to which it refers, which embraces all of the census results published concerning that state, its counties, cities, and other civil divisions, except as to occupations.

The writer has found that the possession of this abstract with its supplement for Massachusetts has enabled him to supply information in answer to nearly all of the inquiries relative to population statistics which have been referred to him by citizens of Massachusetts, in so far as such inquiries are covered by the enumeration in 1910.

While the change in the method of presenting the population statistics, and indeed, the other statistics of the census in 1910, does not entirely meet the needs of those who are engaged in the study of a particular subject in which comparisons between the smaller localities of several states are made, and while the change of method may have caused some confusion because of the necessity, on the part of those who are in the habit of consulting the census reports, of familiarizing themselves with a new method of presentation, it is undoubtedly true that never before have the returns of the census been so accessible to the general public, and when succeeding reports shall have been presented on the plan of the last census the comparability of census returns from period to period will have been greatly facilitated.

Roswell F. Phelps.